



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 4  
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ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

December 9, 2009

David Libman  
National Park Service Southeast Region  
Atlanta Federal Center  
1924 Building  
100 Alabama Street, S.W.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

SUBJECT: Final General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement for the  
Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area in Atlanta, Georgia; CEQ Number  
20090380

Dear Mr. Libman:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the referenced Final General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in accordance with its responsibilities under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act and Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act. The purpose of this general management plan and Final EIS is to present a plan for managing the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area (CRNRA) in Atlanta, Georgia, for the next 15 to 20 years. The National Park Service (NPS) is the lead federal agency for the proposed action.

General management plans represent the broadest level of planning conducted by the NPS and are intended to provide overall guidance for making informed decisions about future conditions in national parks. Six alternatives were analyzed in the Final EIS, including the no action alternative. Alternative F is identified as the preferred alternative and would provide more opportunities for access to the Chattahoochee River, facilities development, and an increased diversity of experience, as compared to the other alternatives.

EPA appreciates the responses to our comments on the Supplemental Draft EIS and a commitment by the NPS to embrace some of the partnership opportunities that we identified related to an overall water quality improvement and educational awareness strategy. We consider this to be a vital part of the long-term CRNRA resource stewardship strategy. In addition, a number of mitigation measures are proposed in the Final EIS to avoid or minimize potentially adverse impacts from implementation of the new management plan and to ensure that the park's natural and cultural resources are protected and preserved for future visitors. EPA supports inclusion of these mitigation measures in the Record of Decision (ROD) and final CRNRA general management plan, particularly the commitment to develop a resource stewardship strategy, fisheries management plan, and instream flow studies.

Based on our review of the Final EIS, EPA has no additional concerns related to this project. EPA recommends that all mitigation measures and monitoring programs, as described in the Final EIS, should be fully implemented. We appreciate the opportunity to review the proposed action. Please contact Ben West of my staff at (404) 562-9643 if you have any questions or want to discuss our comments further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Heinz Mueller", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Heinz J. Mueller, Chief  
NEPA Program Office  
Office of Policy and Management

cc: Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area